



## Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation Division of Natural Areas

### Schedule of Field Trips and Events for 2016

## JANUARY

### **Full Moon Rising on House Mountain State Natural Area**

**Date:** Saturday, January 23, 2016    **Time:** 4:15 P.M.    **Fee:** \$10    **RSVP Deadline:** 1/20/2016

**Location:** House Mountain State Natural Area (36.104775, -83.762740)

**Hike Leader(s):** Lisa Huff, East Regional Ecologist, Division of Natural Areas

**RSVP Contact:** Loretha Legette    **phone:** 615-532-0431    **email:** loretha.legette@tn.gov

**More Info:** <http://www.tn.gov/environment/article/na-na-house-mountain>

**Overnight Accommodations:** <http://tnstateparks.com/parks/about/norris-dam>

This is quickly becoming a favorite hike for local residents. Bring your flashlights, headlamps (and extra batteries!) and join Regional Ecologist Lisa Huff for a mid-winter FULL MOON NIGHT adventure hike at House Mountain State Natural Area. We'll begin the hike with a little bit of orientation and safety and some discussion of what we might hear on our hike. We'll ascend the mountain via the Mountain Trail and hike out to the East End Overlook, then return on the same route (the West End Trail is too dangerous for nighttime). Dress warmly in layers, wear sturdy boots, and bring plenty of water and snacks. The terrain up and down the mountain is rocky and rooty. We will not go unless the sky is clear for the full moon, so you must E-mail Lisa Huff and leave a phone number where you can be reached in case of cancelation! Lisa Huff is the eastern regional ecologist for the state natural areas program. She has a background in wildlife, forestry and ecology with an undergraduate degree from the University of Tennessee and a masters from Duke University. She has been working in her profession since 1981. MOONRISE at 5:51 P.M. A backup date is planned for this hike on February 20th, in case we have bad weather for moon viewing on January 23rd.

## FEBRUARY

### **Full Moon Rising on House Mountain State Natural Area (Back Up Date!)**

**Date:** Saturday, February 20, 2016    **Time:** 3:00 P.M.    **Fee:** \$10    **RSVP Deadline:** 2/17/2016

**Location:** House Mountain State Natural Area (36.104775, -83.762740 )

**Hike Leader(s):** Lisa Huff, East Regional Ecologist, Division of Natural Areas

**RSVP Contact:** Loretha Legette    **phone:** 615-532-0431    **email:** loretha.legette@tn.gov

**More Info:** <http://www.tn.gov/environment/article/na-na-house-mountain>

**Overnight Accommodations:** <http://tnstateparks.com/parks/about/norris-dam>

This event is a backup date in case the planned January 23rd full moon hike has to be canceled due to bad weather and poor viewing conditions. As such, it is first open to anyone who signed up for that date and is still interested in going. See the description for the January 23rd hike. The hike will be the same, but the times have changed, because the Moon and Earth aren't static. MOONRISE at 4:40 P.M.

## MARCH

### Couchville Winter Bioblitz

**Date:** Saturday, March 5, 2016      **Time:** 10:00 A.M. **Fee:** \$0      **RSVP Deadline:** 3/1/2016

**Location:** Couchville Cedar Glade State Natural Area Parking Area (36.1013, -86.5294)

**Hike Leader(s):** Sunny Fleming, Heritage Biologist, David Withers, Heritage Zoologist, Division of Natural Areas

**RSVP Contact:** Loretha Legette   **phone:** 615-532-0431   **email:** [loretha.legette@tn.gov](mailto:loretha.legette@tn.gov)

**More Info:** <http://www.tn.gov/environment/article/na-na-couchville-cedar-glade>

**Overnight Accommodations:** <http://tnstateparks.com/parks/about/cedars-of-lebanon>

Couchville Cedar Glade is a 128-acre natural area in Davidson and Wilson Counties and is contiguous with the east boundary of Long Hunter State Park. Couchville supports one of the largest known and best quality populations of the Tennessee coneflower (*Echinacea tennesseensis*), which was delisted as a federally endangered species in September 2011. Also present is a reproducing population of the Streamside Salamander (*Ambystoma barbouri*), a winter-breeding species that lays eggs under slab rocks in headwater streams of middle Tennessee. Couchville provides one of the finest examples of a glade-barrens complex and protects many rare plant species. Additional acreage was recently acquired through partnership with The Nature Conservancy. Please join Tennessee Natural Heritage Staff for a bioblitz of this newly expanded natural area! We will attempt to catalogue as many organisms as possible from the natural area. No formal taxonomic or scientific training is needed. We will be using the app iNaturalist to conduct the bioblitz, so a device that runs apps is preferred but not necessary as we will likely split into groups. This is an excellent event for families, students, amateurs and professionals alike and all levels of identification skills and backgrounds are encouraged to join. This will be an exploratory event and while we do have a loop trail at Couchville, this is an opportunity to explore beyond the confines of the trail.

### Botany Lessons in Cedar Glades and Woodlands

**Date:** Wednesday, March 16, 2016      **Time:** 10:00 A.M. **Fee:** \$10      **RSVP Deadline:** 3/14/2016

**Location:** Long Hunter State Park at Couchville Lake (36.093928, -86.544225)

**Hike Leader(s):** Todd Crabtree, State Botanist, Division of Natural Areas

**RSVP Contact:** Loretha Legette   **phone:** 615-532-0431   **email:** [loretha.legette@tn.gov](mailto:loretha.legette@tn.gov)

**More Info:** <http://tnstateparks.com/parks/about/long-hunter>

**Overnight Accommodations:** <http://tnstateparks.com/parks/about/cedars-of-lebanon>

Some of the first plants to flower in the spring are found in the cedar glades of middle Tennessee and a few of those species are very rare. The lessons in botany for the day will include identifying these rare plants in addition to mosses, leafless trees and other early flowers of the glades. The cedar glades are a complex ecosystem which varies from wet in the winter to bone dry in the summer. The role of different species in the seasonal progression will be another topic for the day. Species that are not actively growing will still be evident as the dry remnants of last year. The role of these plants will be a part of the lessons as well. Animals have some critical functions in these areas and that topic will not be ignored. Todd Crabtree is the State Botanist for Tennessee and began learning about cedar glades over 30 years ago. He conducts searches for federally listed species,

inventories public lands for rare species, samples ecological systems and maintains the Tennessee Rare Plant List. The weather can be variable at this time of year so be prepared for the conditions. Bring water and snacks. A camera and a hand lens will be very useful to have as well. The terrain is relatively flat but some navigating through shrubby growth is required. We will tread lightly in the glades but be prepared for some mud.

## APRIL

### **Good Fire, Bad Fire? A Workshop on the Effects of an Arson Fire at House Mountain SNA and How to use Prescribed Fire to Achieve Your Land Management Objectives**

**Date:** Saturday, April 9, 2016

**Time:** 10:00 A.M. **Fee:** \$0

**RSVP Deadline:** 4/7/2016

**Location:** Meet at the Spicebush Flats overflow parking area at House Mountain (36.104775, -83.762740)

**Hike Leader(s):** Lisa Huff, East Regional Ecologist, Division of Natural Areas

**RSVP Contact:** Lisa Huff **phone:** 865-594-5601 **email:** lisa.huff@tn.gov

**More Info:** <http://www.tn.gov/environment/article/na-na-house-mountain>

**Overnight Accommodations:** <http://tnstateparks.com/parks/about/big-ridge>

This is an opportunity to learn about the lost effects of fire in our landscape by joining ecologist Lisa Huff at House Mountain in a brief field study of the effects of an arson fire that occurred there in 2014. Fire and the oak-pine forest go together like a hand and glove, but what happens when fire is excluded from the landscape for too long? What happens when a fire burns really hot due to a buildup of excess fuels? What causes a buildup of excess fuels? Why do we need periodic fires in our forests? We'll talk about research done by UT geographer, Henri Grissino-Mayer, who has studied the dendrochronology of House Mountain. We'll see fire adapted species like pitch pine and shortleaf pine and learn about the effects of fuel loads, fire return intervals, the effects caused by the time of year a fire burns, and the responses of invasive exotic species to fires. This is a good outing for any landowner interested in using prescribed (controlled) fire to manage his/her property for specific, desired forest conditions. It's also a great outing for students studying forestry, wildlife, botany, etc. The arson fire stand is about 7 acres in size and is easy access. The outing should last about 2 hours. If the overflow parking area is full, you can park at the regular parking lot and hike over from the Right Sawmill Loop Trail. Stay after the workshop and hike the mountain if you like!

### **Tennessee State Natural Areas Spring Celebration**

**Date:** April 9-17, 2016

**Location:** Statewide Events TBA

**More Info:** <http://www.tn.gov/environment/topic/na-natural-areas-program>

Enjoy a wide range of naturalist-led activities including hikes, canoe floats, and other programs as we celebrate the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Tennessee Natural Areas Preservation Act. Events will be statewide at many of the 85 state natural areas comprised of more than 122,000 acres that the Act now protects.

To learn more about Tennessee State Natural Areas and the Spring Celebration visit the Natural Areas Program website.

<http://www.tn.gov/environment/topic/na-natural-areas-program>  
Events – TBA

## **Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage**

**Date:** April 19-23, 2016

**Location:** Great Smoky Mountains National Park

**More Info:** <http://www.springwildflowerpilgrimage.org/>

**Overnight Accommodations:**

The Great Smoky Mountains National Park Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage is the premiere wildflower event in the eastern United States. Whether you wish to attend lectures, photography courses, half-day, or full-day hikes, you'll certainly find a number of different events from which to choose during this four-day event. Along with numerous other botanists who serve as leaders, Division of Natural Areas botanists will guide participants on various excursions helping participants identify the wildflowers we encounter. While on the trails, trip leaders also discuss the ecology and conservation status of many of the wildflowers, ferns, trees, and shrubs. Visit <http://www.springwildflowerpilgrimage.org/> for more information.

## MAY

### **Wilson School Road Forest and Cedar Glade**

**Date:** Saturday, May 7, 2016

**Time:** 10:00 A.M. **Fee:** \$0

**RSVP Deadline:** 5/4/2016

**Location:** Wilson School Rd. Cedar Glade. Gate (35.664202, -86.794967)

**Hike Leader(s):** Andrea Bishop, Recovery Biologist, with Division of Natural Areas for 23 years. Ben Smith, previous owner of the the SNA

**RSVP Contact:** Andrea Bishop **phone:** 615-741-9141 **email:** [Andrea.bishop@TN.gov](mailto:Andrea.bishop@TN.gov)

**More Info:** <http://www.tn.gov/environment/article/na-na-wilson-school-road-forest-and-cedar-glades>

**Overnight Accommodations:** <http://tnstateparks.com/parks/about/henry-horton>

The 58-acre Natural Area was purchased by the State from the Smith family having owned the property since the early 1800s. The Smiths continue to own the surrounding land. There are limestone cedar glades with shallow soils and forested areas with Blue-ash and Red cedar growing in rich soil with thick moss cover. In the forested area are impressive limestone karst features and sinkholes. It was told that the Smith family had to take refuge in the sinkholes during the Civil War battles. In addition to the historical tour of the site by the Smiths, we will see the globally imperiled Running glade clover, *Trifolium calcaricum*, that occurs at 4 sites in TN and 2 sites in Virginia. The clover grows in the blue ash-cedar forest in rich soil. In the open shallow soils of the cedar glades, we will see the rare plants Carolina anemone (*Anemone caroliniana*), glades cress (*Leavenworthia exigua* var *exigua*), and Tennessee milk-vetch, *Astragalus tennensis*. Other spring flowering herbs and shrubs are columbine, aromatic sumac, glade privet, shooting star, trillium, thimbleweed, ragwort, cinquefoil, and cedar glade St. John's wort. Meeting place to be determined. Easy to moderate hike, bring appropriate shoes, insect spray, water and snack. There is no public access to this site so this is an opportunity to enjoy and learn about this unique area.

## **Explore the Lakes at Sunk Lake State Natural Area Canoe/Kayak Float**

**Date:** Saturday, May 14, 2016      **Time:** 1:15 P.M.    **Fee:** \$10      **RSVP Deadline:** 5/12/2016

**Location:** Sunk Lake State Natural Area (35.709644, -89.738123)

**Hike Leader(s):** Allan Trently, West Tennessee Stewardship Ecologist

**RSVP Contact:** Loretha Legette    **phone:** 615-532-0431    **email:** loretha.legette@tn.gov

**More Info:** <https://www.tn.gov/environment/article/na-na-sunk-lake>

### **Overnight Accommodations:**

A personal canoe or kayak is required for this event. Sunk Lake consists of a series of ten open water areas separated by bald cypress swamp. Essentially the area contains one lake but appears to be made up of ten. We plan to explore each one of these “lakes” by leisurely paddling across the open water and crossing through the swamps. Along the way we’ll look at each plant community that make up the lake/swamp ecosystem and will be on the lookout for birds, dragonflies, fish and other animals. In some years the rare, state-listed American featherfoil is abundant throughout the lake. The float will be about two to three miles and will take over two hours. All parties must have their own canoe/kayak and life jacket. Sunscreen, binoculars and lunch are recommended. Mosquitos have never been a problem for me at Sunk Lake, but it might be a good idea to also bring insect repellent.

Allan Trently, West Tennessee Stewardship Ecologist for the Division of Natural Areas has conducted plant, animal and ecological system inventories of the west Tennessee swamps since joining the Division in 2008. He has led numerous plant and nature walks in the swamps.

## **Pogue Creek Canyon - New Trail Debut Hike**

**Date:** Saturday, May 14, 2016      **Time:** 10:00 A.M.    **Fee:** \$10      **RSVP Deadline:** 5/11/2016

**Location:** Pogue Creek Canyon State Natural Area (36.5221, -84.8175)

**Hike Leader(s):** Roger McCoy, Director, Division of Natural Areas & Travis Bow, Ranger, Pickett State Park

**RSVP Contact:** Pickett State Park    **phone:** (931) 879-5821    **email:**

**More Info:** <http://www.tn.gov/environment/article/na-na-pogue-creek-canyon>

**Overnight Accommodations:** <http://tnstateparks.com/parks/about/pickett>

The last few years Pickett State Park rangers and volunteers have been working hard to develop additional access deep into one of Tennessee’s premier state natural areas. Take advantage of the opportunity to join DNA Director Roger McCoy and Pickett State Park Ranger Travis Bow on an approximately 4-mile guided hike along one of the newest trails within the 3,000-acre Pogue Creek Canyon. We’ll begin our journey at the established overlook trail with a moderate 1-mile hike and then drop below the Plateau Escarpment to access an additional 3-mile strenuous trail.

With experience conducting rare plant surveys and vegetation sampling in the region, Roger McCoy will share his knowledge about the local flora, rare species, and plant communities known from the upper Cumberland Plateau. Ranger Travis will discuss the ongoing archeological studies in which he’s participated as well as the pre-European history of Pogue Creek Canyon and the surrounding area. Participants will also be rewarded with breathtaking overlooks, towering sandstone bluffs, and enjoy the sights and sounds of Pogue Creek Falls.

The 3-mile trail may not be 100% complete; it will include steep, rocky grades, and we’ll descend ladders to access below the escarpment. Therefore, those attending this excursion should have experience and a fitness level to hike in rugged terrain.

Wear sturdy shoes or boots and bring plenty of water and snacks as we’ll enjoy a picnic lunch while in the canyon. Pets are not permitted during this guided hike.

Located very close to Pogue Creek Canyon, Pickett State Park has campsites and cabins for those wishing to overnight accommodations.

## **Beaman Park Hike**

**Date:** Saturday, May 14, 2016      **Time:** 10:00 A.M   **Fee:** \$0      **RSVP Deadline:** 5/12/2016

**Location:** Beaman Park nature center 5911 W. Old Hickory Blvd, Nashville, TN 37015  
(36.262225, -86.894152)

**Hike Leader(s):** Sunny Fleming, Heritage Biologist

**RSVP Contact:** Loretha Legette   **phone:** 615-532-0431   **email:** loretha.legette@tn.gov

**More Info:** <http://www.tn.gov/environment/article/na-na-beaman-park>

**Overnight Accommodations:** <http://tnstateparks.com/parks/about/montgomery-bell>

Beaman Park is a 1,678 acre natural area in northwestern Davidson County approximately 15 miles from downtown Nashville near Joelton. The topography consists of ridges and hollows supporting forest vegetation that is characteristic of the Western Highland Rim. There will be some late spring wildflowers so bring your ID book. Bring water and snacks and dress appropriately. We will meet at the nature center for a moderate to strenuous 4 to 6 mile early spring hike. We will be discussing the history, ecology, and geology of the site.

## **Natural Areas Conservation and Management Walking Tour**

**Date:** Saturday, May 21, 2016      **Time:** 9:00 A.M.   **Fee:** \$10      **RSVP Deadline:** 5/19/2016

**Location:** Vesta Cedar Glade State Natural Area Parking Area (Moccasin Rd as accessed from Vesta Rd, 36.07668, -86.39570)

**Hike Leader(s):** David Lincicome, Natural Heritage Program Manager, Division of Natural Areas

**RSVP Contact:** Loretha Legette   **phone:** 615-532-0431   **email:** loretha.legette@tn.gov

**More Info:** <http://www.tn.gov/environment/article/na-na-vesta-cedar-glade>

**Overnight Accommodations:** <http://tnstateparks.com/parks/about/cedars-of-lebanon>

The Vesta Cedar Glade is a prime example of the rare cedar glade ecosystem that is restricted to Middle Tennessee. Vesta Cedar Glade is a 150-acre natural area in Wilson County. It is in the Central Basin of Middle Tennessee and is located in the southwest corner of Cedars of Lebanon State Forest. The natural area is cooperatively managed with the Tennessee Division of Forestry with about 60-acres of the property included in the state forest. Vesta is comprised of cedar glades, barrens and cedar-hardwood forest communities. It is a flat landscape with exposed limestone outcropping and sinkhole features that are characteristic of the karst topography that influences cedar glade ecology. We will take a look at and discuss many aspects of natural areas conservation and management including visitor management, rare species monitoring and ecological management. May 20th is Endangered Species Day so endangered species recovery will also be discussed. A two-mile loop trail provides a view of cedar glade, barrens and woodland habitats. The trail is flat but rocky and in the spring will likely be muddy. Bring water, snack and sturdy footwear. We will not go if it is forecast to rain heavily, so please RSVP with a contact telephone number. We will meet in the parking area on Moccasin Road in Wilson County. From I-840 exit on to Couchville Pike and go east approximately two miles on Couchville Pike which turns into Vesta Road then turn left on Moccasin Road (look closely for sign) and go approximately one mile to the parking area on the left. From I-40 exit at Hwy 231 and proceed south for approximately nine miles and turn right on Vesta Rd. and go approximately two miles and turn right on Moccasin Road (look closely for sign) and go approximately one mile to the parking area on the left.

## **Plant Identification Workshop: Get to Know the Plants of the West Tennessee Upland and Bottomland Forests**

**Date:** Saturday, May 21, 2016      **Time:** 10:00 A.M. **Fee:** \$10      **RSVP Deadline:** 5/19/2016  
**Location:** Meet at the Big Cypress Tree State Park and State Natural Area parking lot (36.194138, -88.890069)  
**Hike Leader(s):** Allan Trently, West Tennessee Stewardship Ecologist and Bill McCall, Park Manager  
**RSVP Contact:** Loretha Legette **phone:** 615-532-0431 **email:** [loretha.legette@tn.gov](mailto:loretha.legette@tn.gov)  
**More Info:** <https://www.tn.gov/environment/article/na-na-big-cypress-tree> and  
<http://tnstateparks.com/parks/about/big-cypress-tree>  
**Overnight Accommodations:**

Participants will learn to recognize many of the plants found in the upland and bottomland hardwood forests of west Tennessee. To make things easier, we will sort plants into categories such as woody and herbaceous and upland and bottomland plants. All participants will receive handouts of plant lists and ecological terms. From this workshop, you will gain insight on how an ecologist and/or botanist looks at a forest and will learn many of the plants found in these forest. Allan Trently, West Tennessee Stewardship Ecologist for the Division of Natural Areas has conducted plant, animal and ecological system inventories of the west Tennessee swamps since joining the Division in 2008. He has led numerous plant and nature walks in the swamps. We will walk the 0.3-mile, paved Tree Identification Trail and then finish the event by walking in the bottomlands and along the boardwalk. In order to study many of the plants, we plan to walk off the trail at designated points during the event. Participants should wear sturdy boots (rubber boots is recommended). Although not required, attendees may also wish to bring a notebook and pencil, a hand lens or magnifying glass, and plant identification guides.

## **Track your Hike on Virgin Falls State Natural Area**

**Date:** Saturday, May 21, 2016      **Time:** 9:00 A.M. **Fee:** \$10      **RSVP Deadline:** 5/19/2015  
**Location:** Virgin Falls Trailhead Parking Lot Sparta, TN 38583 (35.854080, -85.282163)  
**Hike Leader(s):** Stephanie Williams, Natural Heritage Program Data Manager, Division of Natural Areas  
**RSVP Contact:** Loretha Legette **phone:** 615-532-0431 **email:** [loretha.legette@tn.gov](mailto:loretha.legette@tn.gov)  
**More Info:** <http://www.tn.gov/environment/article/na-na-virgin-falls>  
**Overnight Accommodations:** <http://tnstateparks.com/parks/about/fall-creek-falls>

Have you ever wanted to use your phone or a GPS unit to navigate in the outdoors and collect information from the trails you've actually walked? Join me to discover the tools and tips needed to help guide you to landmarks and create simple maps of where you have traveled. I will show you the apps I use on my iPhone and Android mobile phone to track my position in the field and how to use a handheld Garmin GPS unit to collect information. We will talk about the basics of what is GPS and people can ask questions before we start the hike. After talking about what tools to use, we will hike the 9 mile round-trip (~5-7 hours) Virgin Falls trail with GPS units in hand and enjoy the unique scenic area while getting exercise. The trails pass by small rockhouses, boulder fields, sinks, caves, and waterfalls on route to Virgin Falls where the trail ends. The distance to Virgin Falls is four miles one way. The strenuous trail descends around 900 foot in elevation along a path that in many areas is rocky with uneven footing therefore please be prepared for this adventure with sturdy boots, water, lunch, and clothing for the season. We will meet in the parking lot and I will provide the people that register with lists of apps to download before the hike if they want to use the GPS on their phones during the hike.



## **Couchville Spring Bioblitz**

**Date:** Saturday, May 28, 2016      **Time:** 9:00 A.M.    **Fee:** \$0      **RSVP Deadline:** 5/16/2016  
**Location:** Couchville Cedar Glade State Natural Area Parking Area (36.1013, -86.5294)  
**Hike Leader(s):** Sunny Fleming, Heritage Biologist, David Withers, Heritage Zoologist, Division of Natural Areas  
**RSVP Contact:** Loretha Legette    **phone:** 615-532-0431    **email:** loretha.legette@tn.gov  
**More Info:** <http://www.tn.gov/environment/article/na-na-couchville-cedar-glade>  
**Overnight Accommodations:** <http://tnstateparks.com/parks/about/cedars-of-lebanon>

Couchville Cedar Glade is a 128-acre natural area in Davidson and Wilson Counties and is contiguous with the east boundary of Long Hunter State Park. Couchville supports one of the largest known and best quality populations of the Tennessee coneflower (*Echinacea tennesseensis*), which was delisted as a federally endangered species in September 2011. Couchville also provides one of the finest examples of a glade-barrens complex and protects many rare plant species. Additional acreage was recently acquired through partnership with The Nature Conservancy. Please join Tennessee Natural Heritage Staff for a bioblitz of this newly expanded natural area! We will attempt to catalogue as many organisms as possible from the natural area. No formal taxonomic or scientific training is needed. We will be using the app iNaturalist to conduct the bioblitz, so a device that runs apps is preferred but not necessary as we will likely split into groups. This is an excellent event for families, students, amateurs and professionals alike and all levels of identification skills and backgrounds are encouraged to join. This will be an exploratory event and while we do have a loop trail at Couchville, this is an opportunity to explore beyond the confines of the trail.

## JUNE

### **National Trails Day**

**Date:** Saturday, June 4, 2016      **Time:** All Day    **Fee:** 0      **RSVP Deadline:** NA

Events TBA.

### **Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail Hike - Roaring Creek, NC to Hampton Creek Cove State Natural Area**

**Date:** Saturday, June 4, 2016      **Time:** 9:00 A.M.    **Fee:** \$10      **RSVP Deadline:** 6/1/2016  
**Location:** Meet at the Hampton Creek Cove SNA parking lot (36.152327, -82.055601)  
**Hike Leader(s):** Lisa Huff, East Regional Ecologist, Division of Natural Areas  
**RSVP Contact:** Loretha Legette    **phone:** 615-532-0431    **email:** loretha.legette@tn.gov  
**More Info:** <http://www.tn.gov/environment/article/na-na-hampton-creek-cove>  
**Overnight Accommodations:** <http://tnstateparks.com/parks/about/roan-mountain>

This popular hike is a walk in the footsteps of the common men and women who gave us all our liberty. The Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail is a unit of the National Park Service and certified segments of the route that the actual Overmountain Men (and women!) took from Tennessee to South Carolina to fight the decisive Battle of Kings Mountain cross Roan Mountain at the Appalachian Trail in Yellow Mountain Gap. This popular and scenic hike requires a caravan with the group meeting at Hampton Creek Cove in the morning and then carpooling to Roaring Creek and the Pisgah National Forest to start the hike. This is considered a moderately long and moderately difficult hike. Much of it is downhill through the Cherokee National Forest and Hampton Creek Cove with only a couple of lengthy uphill stretches on the entire route. Upon finishing the hike at Hampton Creek Cove, we'll have to caravan back to Roaring Creek to pick up cars from the morning (but it's worth it, believe me!). While full of moving historical significance, we also are sure to see wonderful highland wildflowers and



hear and see lots of spring birds. This is a great chance to brush up on your botany and wildlife skills in some of the country's most beautiful scenery. This hike will take most of the day. You should not expect to be back to your vehicle until 4 or 5 p.m. You should be prepared for mountain weather, which means CHANGEABLE! Cool to cold in the highlands, possibly windy, maybe drizzly. Wear good footwear and layered clothing. Be prepared for spring showers. Bring plenty of energy food and water. We won't go if it's forecast to be truly rainy, so you have to leave the leader a contact phone number in case of cancelation.

### **Cedar Glade Tour - Couchville, John and Hester Glade, and Vesta**

**Date:** Saturday, June 11, 2016    **Time:** See location details below    **Fee:** \$10    **RSVP Deadline:** 6/9/2016

**Location:** 9:00 A.M. at Home Depot on Bell Rd. Antioch, TN (36.046130, -86.666378) or meet on site at 9:30 A.M. at Couchville State Natural Area (36.101182, -86.529418)

**Hike Leader(s):** Brian Bowen

**RSVP Contact:** Loretha Legette    **phone:** 615-532-0431    **email:** loretha.legette@tn.gov

**More Info:** <https://www.tn.gov/environment/section/na-natural-areas>

**Overnight Accommodations:** <http://tnstateparks.com/parks/about/cedars-of-lebanon>

Our tour will provide an opportunity to experience Middle Tennessee cedar glades and barrens near Nashville. The tour's focus is to introduce you to one of the most unique and rarest types of natural areas that few people know about. The Middle Tennessee cedar glades and barrens are considered to be globally rare ecosystems with numerous plants only found here including two federally endangered species, numerous rare state species, and Tennessee coneflower. Tennessee coneflower was federally listed but has since been taken off the Endangered Species List because it has been successfully protected in Tennessee state natural areas. We plan to visit Couchville Cedar Glade, Vesta Cedar Glade, and the John and Hester Cedar Glade. You can meet at Home Depot at 9:00 or at Couchville at 9:30. There is limited van space for those who meet at Home Depot. This is a 4 hour event.

The tour will be conducted by Brian Bowen. Brian is the Tennessee Natural Areas Program Administrator and is currently directing cedar glade and barrens restoration. This management activity will be observed and discussed while enjoying this unique landscape.

### **Ecology of Cedar Clades at John and Hester Lane Cedar Glades State Natural Area**

**Date:** Saturday, June 25, 2016    **Time:** 10:30 A.M.    **Fee:** \$10    **RSVP Deadline:** 6/24/2016

**Location:** John and Hester Lane Cedar Glade State Natural Area (36.033585, -86.371377)

**Hike Leader(s):** Sunny Fleming, Heritage Biologist, Division of Natural Areas with guest leader botanist Chris Fleming.

**RSVP Contact:** Loretha Legette    **phone:** 615-532-0431    **email:** loretha.legette@tn.gov

**More Info:** <https://www.tn.gov/environment/article/na-na-john-and-hester-lane-cedar-glades>

**Overnight Accommodations:** <http://tnstateparks.com/parks/about/cedars-of-lebanon>

True limestone cedar glades are globally rare communities that exist in Middle Tennessee. The glades are full of federal and state listed plant species that are found in very limited areas. Lane Farm contains a variety of cedar glade types from the classic rocky gravel glade to open grasslands and wet washes. Rare plants such as Tennessee coneflower, leafy prairie clover, limestone fameflower and bigfruit evening primrose are associated with different glade types. Many species will be on full display this time of year at Lane Farm. Take a tour to identify these rare plants, learn why they grow there, what roles they play in the cedar glade community, and how the state is managing the property to maintain these rare communities. Sunny Fleming is a Natural Heritage Program biologist with the Division of Natural Areas. She graduated from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga with a degree in ecology. Her academic research focused on rare plants of the Ocoee River Gorge. Since graduating, she has been working with Division of Natural Areas monitoring federally endangered and threatened plant species. Her husband, Chris Fleming is a botanist for a local environmental firm. He graduated from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville with a masters in botany and has conducted floristic surveys of

Fall Creek Falls State Park, Big South Fork and the Obed River gorges. Most recently, he was a contributing botanist for The Flora of Tennessee (2015). Bring water and a snack for this 2 mile hike on mostly level terrain. Some rocky terrain and possibly muddy spots will require appropriate footwear. A wide brim hat and bug repellent is highly suggested. Bring your camera and a notebook! Questions regarding the contents of this hike can be sent to sunny.fleming@tn.gov.

## JULY

### Ross Forests (registered SNA)

**Date:** Saturday, July 16, 2016      **Time:** 10:00 A.M. **Fee:** \$10      **RSVP Deadline:** 7/11/2016

**Location:** Savannah, TN. Meet at the parking lot of Graham Methodist Church at the intersection of Isaac Lane and HWY 69. We will then carpool to the site. (35.1584158, -88.2183369)

**Hike Leader(s):** Andrea Bishop, Natural Heritage, Recovery Biologist, with Division of Natural Areas for 23 years.

**RSVP Contact:** Loretha Legette   **phone:** 615-532-0431   **email:** loretha.legette@tn.gov

**More Info:**

**Overnight Accommodations:** <http://tnstateparks.com/parks/about/pickwick-landing>

The Ross Forests Partnership Lands property is located in Hardin County and consists of 7,500 acres owned by John J. Ross. The original farm was purchased by his great-grandfather in 1881 and passed to his father who expanded the holdings. Most of the land is managed as a working forest for timber and wildlife. Botanists with the Tennessee Natural Heritage Program surveyed the property and identified four sites that qualify as a Registered State Natural Area due to the presence of state and federal listed plant and animal species. The 4445-acre natural area consists of a variety of habitats including seep/springs, waterfalls, rich hollows with hardwood forests and woodland plants and limestone bluffs, including the banks and floodplain of Horse Creek, a tributary to the Tennessee River. Rare plants that we will see include the federal listed Price's potato-bean, state listed beaked trout lily (in fruit), goldenseal, and ginseng. Black cohosh is also abundant. There are also some very unusual geological features and fossils. Mr. Ross has built an extensive mountain bike/hiking trail that leads to these natural areas.

The hike will be moderate will take 3-4 hours. Bring food, water, bug spray and sturdy shoes. Temperatures may be hot but we will be in shade most of the day.

## AUGUST

### Duck River Float

**Date:** Saturday, August 13, 2016      **Time:** 10:00 A.M. **Fee:** \$0      **RSVP Deadline:** 8/13/2016

**Location:** Higher Pursuits canoe vendor 3114 Cheeks Bend Rd. Columbia, TN 38401 (35.578698, -86.881892)

**Hike Leader(s):** Stephanie Williams

**RSVP Contact:** Stephanie Williams   **phone:** 615-289-4995   **email:** stephanie.ann.williams@tn.gov

**More Info:** <http://www.tn.gov/environment/article/na-na-duck-river-complex>

**Overnight Accommodations:** <http://tnstateparks.com/parks/about/henry-horton>

Come join us as we enjoy the cool waters of the Duck River on a warm summer day. We will be on a very flat and easy stretch of river from Leftwich Bridge to the TWRA take out at Howard Bridge. This stretch of the river has a gentle current, no rapids, and will take about 4 hours to float. This is an excellent opportunity for beginners to canoe. Participants are welcome to bring their own canoe or kayak, but will have to provide their own

transportation if they do. Transportation from the take-out back to the put-in can be arranged for a small fee. Canoes can be rented at a special discount of \$40 per canoe through a local canoe vendor. Our put-in point is about a 45-minute drive south of Nashville on I-65. Bring lunch and water and perhaps a change of clothes. For more information and directions go to <http://www.higherpursuits.com/> Met at Higher Pursuits parking area at 3114 Cheeks Bend Rd in Columbia.

### **Butt-Dragon-Moth'ers Event at Carroll Cabin Barrens State Natural Area**

**Date:** Saturday, August 13, 2016      **Time:** 9:30 A.M.      **Fee:** \$0      **RSVP Deadline:** 8/11/2016

**Location:** Carroll Cabin Barrens State Natural Area (35.466579, -88.053834)

**Hike Leader(s):** Allan Trently, West Tennessee Stewardship Ecologist

**RSVP Contact:** Allan Trently      **phone:** 731-512-1369      **email:** [allan.trently@tn.gov](mailto:allan.trently@tn.gov)

**More Info:** <https://www.tn.gov/environment/article/na-na-carroll-cabin-barrens>

#### **Overnight Accommodations:**

Who wants to be a Butt Dragon Mother? If it is you, please join me at Carroll Cabin Barrens in Decatur County. We'll hike the trail and explore the barrens for Butterflies, Dragonflies and Moths. You don't need to be a mother but it would help if you have an interest in moths. Sixty-two species of butterflies have been documented from the natural area. On this event we'll concentrate on the butterflies but will also be on the lookout for dragonflies, damselflies and moths (especially moth caterpillars); and we won't ignore the plants. There are lots to see and discover in these wildflower-dominated, Silurian-aged barrens. Be prepared for off-trail walking along gentle slopes. We meet at 9:30 AM and continue till about noon. The barrens are treeless areas so sunscreen is highly recommended. Also wear tick repellent since ticks are common along the forested edges.

## SEPTEMBER

### **Hike and Creek Walk at Auntney Hollow State Natural Area on the Little Swan Creek**

**Date:** Saturday, September 10, 2016      **Time:** 10:00 A.M.      **Fee:** \$10      **RSVP Deadline:** 9/7/2016

**Location:** Meriwether Lewis National Monument Park, historic cabin and visitor center parking lot. (35.508907, -87.459900)

**Hike Leader(s):** Andrea Bishop, Recovery Biologist, with Division of Natural Areas for 23 years. Allan Trently, West Tennessee Stewardship Ecologist

**RSVP Contact:** Andrea Bishop      **phone:** 615-532-0431      **email:** [loretha.legette@tn.gov](mailto:loretha.legette@tn.gov)

**More Info:** <http://www.tn.gov/environment/article/na-na-auntney-hollow>

#### **Overnight Accommodations:**

The fall is a perfect time for a hike and creek walk in the beautiful Little Swan Creek and surrounding woodlands. The natural area that we are exploring is a rare plant community type called the Highland Rim Calcareous Seeps with several rare plants that only occur in these seeps habitat. The federally endangered Tennessee yellow-eyed grass (*Xyris tennesseensis*), the state listed Grass-of-Parnassus (*Parnassia grandifolia*) and Eggert's sunflower (*Helianthus eggertii*) will be in flower and the Broad-leaved Barbara's Buttons (*Marshallia trinerva*) will be in fruit. Many other plants will be flowering along the creek bank including the cardinal flower and the great lobelia in the bluebell family. Enjoy the fall colors, cool stream and lush woods. The shale outcrops and the moist wooded streambanks and slopes harbor many species of ferns, mosses, grasses and sedges. The hike is moderate and will take approximately 3-4 hours. Bring water, snacks, bug spray and be prepared to get your feet wet or wear rubber boots.

## **Woody Plant Identification Field Course**

**Date:** Saturday, September 10, 2016   **Time:** 9:30 A.M.   **Fee:** \$10   **RSVP Deadline:** 9/7/2016

**Location:** Short Springs State Natural Area (35.4074, -86.1745)

**Hike Leader(s):** Roger McCoy, Director, Division of Natural Areas

**RSVP Contact:** Loretha Legette   **phone:** 615-532-0431   **email:**

**More Info:** <https://tn.gov/environment/article/na-na-short-springs>

**Overnight Accommodations:** Those needing overnight accommodations can find camping at Old Stone Fort State Park

<http://tnstateparks.com/parks/about/old-stone-fort> and Tims Ford State Park has camping and cabins

<http://tnstateparks.com/parks/about/tims-ford>.

Accurate identification of trees and shrubs while hiking through Tennessee's forests adds to our enjoyment of the natural world. The scenic trails and waterfalls of Short Springs provide a wonderful setting for this approximately three-to-four-hour woody plant identification field course. Participants will not only learn the names of numerous native trees and shrubs but with hand-outs and living specimens, the trip leader will instruct the group on the different characteristics of leaves, twigs, bark, and buds and the terms used in tree identification. Attendees will also learn about the current and historic uses of certain species and the ecological conditions that influence forest stand composition. Roger McCoy, Director of the Division of Natural Areas, has conducted vegetation sampling on state parks and forests, Department of Defense lands, national forests, and national parks and has used his formal botanical training to facilitate public hikes throughout the state.

The 1.5 – 2 mile hiking route will be moderate with some steep sections. Participants should wear sturdy shoes or boots and bring water and snacks to enjoy at the base of the scenic Machine Falls. Although not required, attendees may also wish to bring a notebook and pencil, a hand lens or magnifying glass, and a tree identification guide. You can address specific questions about the outing to [roger.mccoy@tn.gov](mailto:roger.mccoy@tn.gov). Sorry, but pets not permitted during this outing.

## **National Public Lands Day**

**Date:** Saturday, September 24, 2016   **Time:** All Day   **Fee:** 0   **RSVP Deadline:** N/A

Events TBA.

National Public Lands Day is a day to celebrate and recognize the value of our public lands. There will be various events hosted all throughout Tennessee on our public lands. Whether you join us for a hike or strike out on your own, please take some time with family and friends to visit your nearest park – or strike out on an adventure and visit a new one!

## DECEMBER

### **Flat Rock Winter's Day Hike**

**Date:** Saturday, December 10, 2016   **Time:** 9:30 A.M.   **Fee:** \$0   **RSVP Deadline:** 12/9/2016

**Location:** Flat Rock Parking Area on Factory Rd. (35.858646, -86.295817)

**Hike Leader(s):** Brian Bowen

**RSVP Contact:** Brian Bowen   **phone:** 615-532-0436   **email:** Brian.Bowen@tn.gov

**More Info:** <https://www.tn.gov/environment/article/na-na-flat-rock-cedar-glades-and-barrens>

**Overnight Accommodations:** <http://tnstateparks.com/parks/about/cedars-of-lebanon>

On this 3-mile hike, we will explore a unique landscape of limestone outcropping, grassland (prairies) and forest. The cedar glades of Middle Tennessee are globally rare and this winter hike will focus on the uniqueness of its landscape. The hike will take approximately 3 hours. Bring water, a snack, wear sturdy walking gear (waterproof boots are highly recommended), and dress for the weather. For more information, including descriptions, directions, and maps about this and other state natural areas visit the Division of Natural Areas web site at: <http://www.tn.gov/environment/natural-areas/natural-areas/>.